



## Collective Worship Plan – Term 6 2022-2023

Who is leading? Monday: *Mrs Wolfram*, Tuesday: *Class*, Wednesday: *KS/ Rev. John Walker/Mary-Jayne*, Thursday: *KS Singing*, Friday: *KS Celebration*.

Together  
again

<b>Week 1</b>	Rebuilding together
<b>Week 2</b>	Learning together from Jesus
<b>Week 3</b>	Flourishing Together
<b>Week 4</b>	Compassion Together
<b>Week 5</b>	Resilience Together
<b>Week 6</b>	Kindness Together
<b>Week 7</b>	Growing Together - HARVEST

### Notes:

Our KS2 Harvest Celebration will once again be at Harbour Church, on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October.

Mary Jayne will be in KS1 assembly on 13<sup>th</sup> September and in KS2 on 11<sup>th</sup> October.

Rev John will lead KS2 roughly every **fortnight**.

Barney Ridgwell will lead some Wednesdays in KS1



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Who is leading? Monday: Mrs Wolfram, Tuesday: Class, Wednesday: KS/ Rev. John Walker/Mary-Jayne, Thursday: KS Singing, Friday: KS Celebration.

### Rebuilding Together

Week 1: 4th- 8th September 2023	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
	<p>Children walk in to the hall to: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uiWZXLsdE9w">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uiWZXLsdE9w</a>            Sing: Big Family of God: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UEvJzOxm6zs">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UEvJzOxm6zs</a></p>	<p><b>UNDERSTANDING OUR COMMUNITY</b>  <b>Nehemiah 1-6</b>            Look at the picture of the jigsaw at <a href="#">puzzle-game-solution-connection</a> or use a real one. I wonder which things you can 'build': words, Jenga, house, boat, jigsaw, friendships etc. I wonder what you like / do not like to build. Look at the picture of the puzzle. How do you 'build' a jigsaw puzzle?            I wonder whether everyone likes to build jigsaws in the same way. I wonder if our school community is a bit like a jigsaw puzzle.             Read the story of Nehemiah – there is a version provided below as an appendix or use an appropriate Bible.  <b>I wonder....</b>            ...why Nehemiah was so sad when he heard the news from his brother.... ...how Nehemiah felt to be given the job of re-building Jerusalem... ..or how it felt to return home....            I wonder what the most difficult part of the re-building was.... ..and how you might re-build a community....or someone's <i>heart</i>.... I wonder how this story might help us today as we come back together after our summer holidays....             Give each child a jigsaw puzzle piece. Our school community is like a big jigsaw.  <i>Dear God, Please help us to remember that we are all important in our school community, that we each matter. Help us to be thankful for each other as we come together again and learn to live as one community.</i>  <b>AMEN</b></p>	<p><b>OFFERING OUR GIFTS</b>  <b>Nehemiah 10:39</b>            Remind yourselves of the story of Nehemiah's Big Build – and the things that were being built and created. The story is at the end of the plan if you want to read it again.             Think about some of the objects in front of Nehemiah (pictures below, at the end of the plan) which are things that the people who were rebuilding the walls and the people who were in Babylon gave to help Nehemiah in his work. I wonder which objects you think would have been most useful ...how you think each thing helped with the rebuilding. Look at the phrases on the wall – these were all things that the people did to help Nehemiah. I wonder how you think these actions helped with the rebuilding.             I wonder how these actions might help us to 'give' to our school community. Spend some time thinking about all the things you're good at and write on the back of a 'gift' and offer these to help as we build our school community together day by day.   <i>We want to give wisely:            'We will give all we can.'</i>  <i>In our friendships and family: 'We will give all we can.'</i>  <i>In our work and in our play: 'We will give all we can.'</i>            As we rebuild our school community:  <b>'We will give all we can.'</b>  <b>AMEN</b></p>



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### Learning together from Jesus the Teacher

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
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Children walk in to the hall to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uiWZXLsdE9w>

Sing:

#### JESUS THE TEACHER

**Matthew 5:1, Matthew 11:15**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p6SNCvIN4EI> Was Ben a good teacher?

I wonder if you can think of something that it was easy for you to learn and something which it was hard to learn.  
I wonder what made the difference to your learning.

I wonder how you make sure that you are ready to learn. I wonder how Jesus made sure that his followers, friends and disciples were ready to learn. They were gathered on a hillside and ready to listen to Jesus. I wonder how you make sure that you are ready to listen to your teachers. Jesus said, 'Listen then if you have ears to hear' – I wonder what he meant.

To learn, you need to be ready to listen – I wonder what then makes for the best teacher as you listen.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=402aa9urw4I>

Do you agree with anything in this clip?

Think about what you know about Jesus. I wonder how he brought out the best in people.



*Thank you God for Jesus the teacher and for everyone who teaches us day by day. Help us to open our eyes, ears and minds to see, listen and think so that we can learn more about you and about your world. AMEN*

#### LEARNING FROM JESUS THE TEACHER ABOUT TREATING OTHERS AS YOU WOULD WANT TO BE TREATED

**Matthew 7:12**

Jesus did not teach about things that were easy to do/hear: good teachers do not shrink from difficult messages.

Describe a situation such as this:

Tom loved chocolate it was his favourite. Whenever he had some chocolate he always kept it to himself he would never share any with his friends. When his friend Michael won a competition, the prize was the biggest bar of chocolate Tom had ever seen - surely Michael would share his prize with his friends. He shared the bar of chocolate with all his friends, all his friends except Tom. Tom was very sad and very hurt by these actions so he asked Michael. "Why did you share with everyone else but not me?" Michael's reply was simple. "You never share any of your chocolate with us and that makes us sad, so why should I share with you? If you want us to share with you must share with us." Suddenly Tom realised what he had been doing and he apologised. Next time Tom had any chocolate, sweets, crisps, games etc he always made sure that he shared and he found that is friends always shared with him

Or use

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3OedgmVP0uA> (aimed at young children, so check for suitability first)

Make the link with Matthew 7:12 (in different versions of the Bible):

The Message

12 "Here is a simple, rule-of-thumb guide for behaviour: Ask yourself what you want people to do for you, then grab the initiative and do it for them.

Good News Translation

12 "Do for others what you want them to do for you:

New International Version

12 So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you,

I wonder how you can rise to this challenging teaching. I wonder how the world would look different if everybody rose to this challenge.

*Dear Lord, please help us to think carefully about our actions. Help us always to treat others in a way that we would like them to treat us.*

**AMEN**

Mary Jayne in KS1

Rev John in KS2

#### LEARNING FROM JESUS THE TEACHER ABOUT HOW TO PRAY

**Matthew 6:9-13**

Use some time at the beginning of the year to remind pupils about the Lord's Prayer. Jesus' disciples said to him, 'Lord teach us how to pray' (in Luke's version) – so the Lord's Prayer was actually a short lesson in how to pray by Jesus. Explore its meaning Remember it is a prayer to be prayed not just said.

These video suggestions mainly draw on the traditional words:

Makaton signing

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a7mYX\\_9UIU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a7mYX_9UIU)

British sign language (modern)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WrpjmrTF7Z0>

A musical version aimed at younger pupils with images which might help exploration

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u0mA9SGZVjs>

Children saying the Lord's prayer

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wIBK97Q4Ae8>

Thought provoking images and explanations for older pupils

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rgN0s2xmCuM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lsrs1NhAoBk>

Reflective musical version

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-HaEoCqH47Y>

It is a very old prayer – 1000s of years. Why do we still say it today? Is it still relevant? How does it apply to our lives today?

Finish by saying the Lord's prayer together.



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### Flourishing together

Week 3: 18 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2023	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
	<p>Children walk in to the hall to: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uiWZXLsdE9w">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uiWZXLsdE9w</a>            Sing: Nothing's too big for his power <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cCy9_cXpes">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cCy9_cXpes</a></p>	<p><b>HOW JESUS HELPS US TO FLOURISH John 10:1-15</b></p> <p>Flourishing as humans is something we all aim for. It can look different, depending on our beliefs and circumstances. Christians believe that Jesus offers 'life in all its fullness' which isn't a life without trouble, but a life lived with him. A flourishing life is diverse, connected and outward-looking.</p> <p>Explore the Bible passage through drama or images or a film clip:  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ar732X9uQ3I">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ar732X9uQ3I</a> up to 2 mins 20 secs  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zvi5N_y-910">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zvi5N_y-910</a></p> <p>I wonder how the sheep flourish because of the care of the good shepherd. I wonder who helps you to flourish at home and at school and in the activities you do. I wonder how you are able to flourish. Ask these questions of lots of different members of the school community. Perhaps you could make a display with speech bubbles of what people have said which express the flourishing in your school day by day.</p> <p>You might want to watch and/or listen to this song for reflection:  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vTjDL_Y6ENY">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vTjDL_Y6ENY</a></p> <p>It is a reminder that being cared for and close to Jesus can help our flourishing.</p>	<p><b>I NEED TO FLOURISH BUT SO DOES EVERYONE ELSE John 10:10</b></p> <p>This is a story that can be enjoyed at all levels and questions for discussion can ensure that the ideas are explored in age appropriate ways.</p> <p>Read 'How full is your bucket?' or watch a video reading here: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A5R6-2m_gHK">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A5R6-2m_gHK</a></p> <p>Talk about what fills our own emotional buckets, and what drains them. Christians believe that God wants us to have 'life in all its fullness' as in John 10:10 – a full bucket – but this takes work and collaboration. Encourage everyone to talk about what fills their buckets, and how they might go about asking for what they need.</p> <p>I wonder... who helps you be the best you can be... who encourages you when you are struggling... who do you help and support... what kind of things can you do which will help someone else flourish today.</p> <p>Perhaps you might like to draw a picture of someone you know who needs someone to care for them or encourage them. Maybe they are sad or nervous or tired. Perhaps they don't find it easy to make friends. After you have finished fold up the paper and put it in your pocket. Every time you put your hand in your pocket perhaps you can think of one way that you might help them flourish by encouraging them or making them smile, or comforting them.</p>





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Who is leading? Monday: Mrs Wolfram, Tuesday: Class, Wednesday: KS/ Rev. John Walker/Mary-Jayne, Thursday: KS Singing, Friday: KS Celebration.

### Resilience Together

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Children walk in to the hall to: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uiWZXLsdE9w">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uiWZXLsdE9w</a> Sing: : Every step <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nZBhKp5_HwE&amp;list=RDUEvJzOxm6zs&amp;index=6">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nZBhKp5_HwE&amp;list=RDUEvJzOxm6zs&amp;index=6</a>		
<p><b>WE CAN DO IT!</b>  <b>Luke 18:1-5</b>            This week, we are thinking about the idea of resilience – keeping going even when we encounter difficulties. It’s not an easy thing to do, but it makes a huge difference especially if we develop it together. It’s also something we can learn to get better at! We can develop resilience in our hearts and minds through practice, a bit like we develop muscles in our body when we exercise. If you can, why don’t you stand up and do a quick exercise now! If we do this every day, we will get stronger in our bodies. Perhaps you find it easier to exercise with someone else alongside you.</p> <p>Today’s Bible story is about someone who tried to do something really hard and kept going  <a href="https://freebibleimages.org/photos/persistent-widow/">https://freebibleimages.org/photos/persistent-widow/</a>            You could role-play this story – get someone to be the widow and someone to be the judge. How many times do you think she had to ask the judge before he gave in? Why did he eventually help?</p> <p>Think about the woman in the story. She wanted justice when someone treated her unfairly. She had been really brave, going to a judge, and when she asked him for help, he refused to give her the fairness she wanted. But she kept going back! The reason Jesus told this story was to encourage his followers to keep trying – if things didn’t work out straightaway, they shouldn’t give up. In fact, he said this is how they should pray to God – over and over again, without giving up.</p> <p>I wonder how the widow in the story felt about having to go back again and again. I wonder how you would have felt. I wonder if you have ever asked someone for justice and they wouldn’t listen to you.</p>	<p><b>WHERE AND HOW WE FIND HELP</b>  <b>1 Thessalonians 5:16-18</b>            These verses talk about never giving up and having joy no matter what happens - this will show that trust in God can help people to be resilient as well as getting support from other people.</p> <p>Sit facing a mirror or sit facing another person. When you are ready, give yourself or your partner a smile; a genuine, joyful smile, letting it show through your eyes. I wonder how this makes you feel. Hold on to this feeling. I wonder if you can look around and see if you can share this feeling with someone else.</p> <p>Bounce a ball. Each time it comes back to you, imagine yourself ‘bouncing back’ from a difficult situation. If the ball isn’t pumped up with enough air, it will struggle to bounce back. I wonder what might help you to bounce back fully. For some Christians, it is the Holy Spirit or it might be the love of your family and friends, feeling understood and valued – or a combination of these.</p> <p>Use the song from yesterday to sit quietly and reflect  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EGLSk3AVcUU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EGLSk3AVcUU</a></p>	<p><b>KS1 – Richard</b>  <b>KS2 – Rev John</b>  <b>WHY WE SHOULD NEVER GIVE UP</b>  <b>Roman 5:3-5</b>            The Bible reminds me us that it is not unusual to go through hard times but that they help us to grow and give us hope.</p>  <p>What does this picture make you think of? How might it be possible for this tree to flourish here? I wonder what helps people to flourish when they are in a difficult situation.</p> <p>You could take a piece of spaghetti. I wonder what happens if you put pressure on it when it is dry – it cracks easily. I wonder what happens when it is cooked. When it is cooked it springs back. I wonder if you have you ever had an experience where something difficult made you ‘crack’. I wonder if you have you ever experienced a time when you felt wobbly inside, but actually you were able to spring back from a difficult situation. I wonder who could you ask to help you if you are struggling to spring back. I wonder if there is anyone who might need your help with something hard right now.</p> <p>A reflective song about not giving up even in the hardest times  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EGLSk3AVcUU">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EGLSk3AVcUU</a></p> <p><i>Dear God, Please help me move beyond the hurdles that trip me up, and give me the strength and wisdom to look up and see the hope I run toward in Jesus. AMEN</i></p>

Week 5: 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023



## Collective Worship Plan – Term 6 2022-2023

Who is leading? Monday: Mrs Wolfram, Tuesday: Class, Wednesday: KS/ Rev. John Walker/Mary-Jayne, Thursday: KS Singing, Friday: KS Celebration.

Kindness together		
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Children walk in to the hall to: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uiWZXLsdE9w">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uiWZXLsdE9w</a> Sing: Give a little kindness <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fCwbGMHpDYg">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fCwbGMHpDYg</a>		
<p><b>WHO IS KINDNESS FOR?</b>  <b>Luke 10:25-37</b>            You can watch the Parable of the Good Samaritan through one of these videos:  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fO4qSAh1sl">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fO4qSAh1sl</a>  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLzdQtetedc">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLzdQtetedc</a> (up to 2 mins 45 secs) or read from an appropriate version            In the Good News Translation, we see the importance of kindness coming through: “In your opinion, which one of these three acted like a neighbour toward the man attacked by the robbers?” The teacher of the Law answered, “The one who was kind to him.” Jesus replied, “You go, then, and do the same.” In the time and place that this parable was told, Samaritans were not popular; it was certainly not expected that this person, from that place, would be willing to help the beaten man lying helpless in the road. I wonder how the beaten man felt when the Samaritan helped him by showing kindness. I wonder how he felt when the others walked past and ignored him. I wonder what difference you think this act of kindness meant to the beaten man and to the Samaritan. Why do you think Jesus decided to tell this story?            Sometimes our acts of kindness, however big or small, can really make a difference in someone’s life. In the Parable of the Good Samaritan, Jesus helped the teacher of the Law realise that being a neighbour and showing kindness was much more important than deciding who is or isn’t a neighbour.            You might like to sing or listen to this song by Watoto Children’s choir. It is called ‘We will go’ <a href="https://youtu.be/tCEGDkdXOcM">https://youtu.be/tCEGDkdXOcM</a>            One of the lyrics says, “I will be your hands and feet”. I wonder what you think this means.</p>	<p><b>WHEN IS KINDNESS FOR?</b>  <b>Matthew 25:31-45</b>            I wonder how it feels to be able to give an act of kindness to someone you know. How about someone you don’t? I wonder when it is difficult to be kind to people. I wonder who you need to be kind to right now and why. I wonder what it feels like when someone has shown you an act of kindness. I wonder how we can grow kindness in our community.            The parable told by Jesus in Matthew 25 talks about helping all those in need regardless of who they are and whether you know them because that is how you serve Jesus himself.            The Servant King echoes this:  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8rh4xEvMVQQ">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8rh4xEvMVQQ</a>            This is a prayer of St Teresa of Avila (1515-82) with a similar message  <i>Christ has no body now on earth but yours; no hands but yours; no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which the compassion of Christ must look out on the world. Yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good. Yours are the hands with which He is to bless His people.</i>            Sung versions of this prayer:  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bi9p888x38Q">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bi9p888x38Q</a>  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w7ymxW3rndk">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w7ymxW3rndk</a>            I wonder when kindness is for. Whenever you see anyone who needs it from you?</p>	<p><b>KS1 – Barney Ridgwell</b>  <b>KS2 - Mary Jayne</b>  <b>WHAT IS KINDNESS FOR?</b>  <b>Luke 10:36-37</b>            ‘We grow in kindness when our kindness is tested.’ Archbishop Desmond Tutu            I wonder if you can you think of a time when someone was unexpectedly kind to you. Maybe it changed your life. I wonder what you think Desmond Tutu was meaning when he said that kindness grows when it is tested. I wonder if you have experienced your kindness being difficult, being tested, being rejected.            This beautiful ‘real-life video about simple acts of kindness that change both the giver and receiver: <a href="https://youtu.be/GdYJr03eJfE">https://youtu.be/GdYJr03eJfE</a>.            Another option showing how one act of kindness can inspire another one:  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X3ld9_p2bS0">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X3ld9_p2bS0</a>            Be thankful for those who have shown you kindness. Think of others as you say these words:  <i>May you feel safe, May you feel happy, May you feel healthy, May you live with ease.</i>            And be kind to yourself as you say: <i>May I feel safe, May I feel happy, May I feel healthy, May I live with ease.</i>            Finally ask for guidance and strength to be kind today, and eyes to see where kindness is needed.            I wonder what you think kindness is for. To help our relationships with ourselves, with others and with the world?</p>

Week 6: 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023



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### Growing together - Harvest

Week 7: 16 <sup>th</sup> – 20th October 2023	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
	<p>Children walk in to the hall to: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uiWZXLsdE9w">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uiWZXLsdE9w</a>            Sing: Every step <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nZBhKp5_HwE&amp;list=RDUeVJzOxm6zs&amp;index=6">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nZBhKp5_HwE&amp;list=RDUeVJzOxm6zs&amp;index=6</a></p> <div style="display: flex;"> <div style="flex: 1; padding-right: 10px;"> <p><b>GROWING IS GOD'S GIFT</b>  <b>Genesis 1</b>            I wonder how and why our bodies grow. I wonder what would stop us from growing. I wonder what the Bible says about how the world first started to grow. This retelling might only be able to be done by a small group of children, unless you are feeling brave and let everyone have a go at being Creation statues.            Based on the Biblical account:  <i>On Day 1, God gave the gift of light: statue of a candle - hands together over their heads, flickering.</i>  <i>On Day 2, God gave the gift of water: statue of a fountain - hands rising and falling above your heads like a fountain.</i>  <i>On Day 3, God gave the gift of land, plants and flowers: growing statue of a tree or plant - start small and slowly grow upwards, unfolding your body.</i>  <i>On Day 4, God gave the gift of day and night: statue of a star, hands 'twinkling'.</i>  <i>On Day 5, God gave the gift of fish and birds: hand movements for a bird and a fish</i>  <i>On Day 6, God gave the gift of land creatures: statue of any creature - big, small, tame and wild - leave this to everyone's imagination! Point to each other and smile.</i>  <i>On Day 7, God gave the gift of rest: invite everyone to become a statue of someone doing something relaxing – lots of different things</i></p> <p>I wonder which of these things you like the best and which is most important and which you would like to say thank you for.</p> </div> <div style="flex: 1; padding-right: 10px;"> <p><b>KS1 – Harvest Festival in KS2 Hall</b>  <b>MY SOWING AND GROWING</b>  <b>II Corinthians 9:6</b>  <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ha628Pj_Rns">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ha628Pj_Rns</a> (first minute)            This is a traditional hymn during which children bring up harvest gifts. I wonder what the words of this hymn make you think about. Perhaps you can show some pictures of farmers sowing seed or plant a sunflower seed and explain how we now have to wait but it will produce the flower and many more seeds which we can eat or sow again.</p> <p>Think of people who sow and grow 'seeds' in their lives such as Greta Thumberg (or an appropriate example for the group). I wonder what the result of Greta's 'sowing' will be.</p> <p>I wonder what you work hard for. – your studies, your interests, your friendships. This is like planning and looking after seeds. I wonder how these seeds will grow and what you will harvest in the end. For younger pupils, this might be how a simple kindness can result in something special to someone else.</p> <p>I wonder what 'seeds' you will plant today. I wonder if you will sow generously (see Bible verse). I wonder how God can help us as we 'sow and grow'.</p> <p><i>Dear God, As we celebrate harvest, we thank you for the ways in which our lives are producing fruits. Guide and sustain us in lives that make a difference to those around us every day. AMEN</i></p> </div> <div style="flex: 1;"> <p><b>KS2 Harvest Celebration at Harbour Church – Year 5 to lead</b>  <b>KS1 - Use class worship plan from yesterday</b></p> </div> </div>		



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### **Nehemiah and the Big Rebuild (Part One)** - acknowledgement to the Diocese of Guildford schools' department

Every time you hear the word '**build**' or '**rebuild**', 'build' using your fists (like in the Wise & Foolish Man song) - or use the Bob the Builder® refrain 'Can we fix it?!', whichever you think your school community would prefer - or just read the story! You choose.....

Nehemiah was not a **build-er**: he was the cup-bearer to the King of Babylon. It was a very important job in the royal household.

Most of God's people were once again far, far away from home, living in exile in Babylon. They had never forgotten about Israel, the land that they called 'home' but had begun to **build** new lives for themselves in Babylon, not ever imagining that they would return.

One day, Nehemiah had a visitor from his homeland, a long-lost brother, who told him stories of Jerusalem that filled Nehemiah's eyes with tears.

'The walls of our great city, Jerusalem, are crumbling, it's gates have been burned to the ground and all the **build-ings** lie in ruins.' Nehemiah's brother said.

Nehemiah's heart was as broken as the walls, but he did the very best thing that he could do - he wept....and he prayed.... and he poured out his heart to God who **built** the world, and asked him to once again help His people.

Next day, Nehemiah took wine to the king, who noticed his tear-stained face and sad eyes and asked him what was wrong.

'I want to go home' Nehemiah replied 'and **rebuild** Jerusalem, which lies in ruins. If you are willing, O King, please let me go. I will also need wood to **build** with, so please send this too.'

Then Nehemiah took the long journey home to Jerusalem, surrounded by the King's soldiers to keep him safe. That night, he went out to the walls to see what needed to be done - and to plan the great **rebuild**. He knew that God, the great Master-**builder** would be with him and help him to know what to do. Everyone who was left in Jerusalem helped to **build** the gates and the walls, to keep the people safe. It was an enormous job!

But Nehemiah knew that he wasn't just **building** the city, he was **building** a community again, so when he saw that some of the people were hungry, he fed them: when people were being unfair, he challenged them and reminded them of what's important to God, who **built** the world.

Now they were ready for some of the people to return from Babylon, to help **rebuild** the rest of the city: houses, shops, businesses, farms - and to **rebuild** the great Temple. They brought with them everything they could to help with the work and **rebuild** their communities: gold, silver, cattle and **building** materials.

The **rebuilding** of Jerusalem continued for seven months until people had homes to live in and families were settled. But God, the master-**builder**, had more work to do. He knew that his people needed more than buildings and homes - they needed to remember who they were.....to **rebuild** their hearts. *And you'll hear how next time!*



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### Nehemiah and the Big Rebuild (Part Two)

*To help children to engage: every time you hear the word 'hearts' make a heart shape with your hands*

As we heard last time, Nehemiah was not a builder: he was the cup-bearer to the King of Babylon, who had been sent to Jerusalem to rebuild the city, the home of the people of God. Most of God's people had been living far, far away from home, in a land called Babylon. Their **hearts** had not forgotten about Israel, their 'home', but the people had never imagined that they would ever be able to return there.

The re-building of Jerusalem had taken seven months until there were homes for people to live in and some of them had returned from Babylon. But God, and Nehemiah, knew there was more work to do, that the people needed more than buildings and homes - they needed to remember who they were.....to re-build their **hearts**.

So Nehemiah gathered the people together - and Ezra the teacher read from the sacred scrolls containing the teachings of Moses. The people had not met together like this for a very long time, so long, in fact that they had almost forgotten what being together felt like. Their **hearts** were full of joy - and they worshipped God there together.

As Ezra read on, the people heard the stories of how God had been with them in the past: how he'd rescued them from Egypt and provided for them on their long journey to the land that God had promised them, their home. Their **hearts** were full of hope, as they remembered that God had been with them all this time.

They listened to Ezra read the rules that God had given to Moses many years ago and thought about what they meant, but then, suddenly, they realised how sad God must be that they had forgotten his rules....and as great big tears fell from their eyes, their **hearts** were filled with sadness. But God was using this sadness to help mend their broken **hearts**; to help the people to remember who they were and the things that should be important to them - the things that really mattered to God.

Nehemiah looked at the people and knew just what to do. 'Don't cry!' he said. 'This is a great day: a day for us to remember and be glad that we are God's people. His joy will make your **hearts** strong!' And he sent them home to eat, to drink, and to celebrate - and to share their food with those who were in need.

When they gathered the next day, the people heard how God had given them a way to celebrate that they were his people - and to remember his faithfulness on the long desert journey long ago, when they lived in tents. As God had told them to, they gathered branches from the trees - and built shelters on their rooftops, shelters in the courtyards and shelters in the grounds of the Temple. The people gathered up all their words of praise into a great prayer. Then they made promises to each other and to God and signed a charter to remind them of who they were, and what they had promised.

And as they celebrated, their **hearts** were rebuilt, just like the walls of the great city had been.

And God's **heart** was very glad!

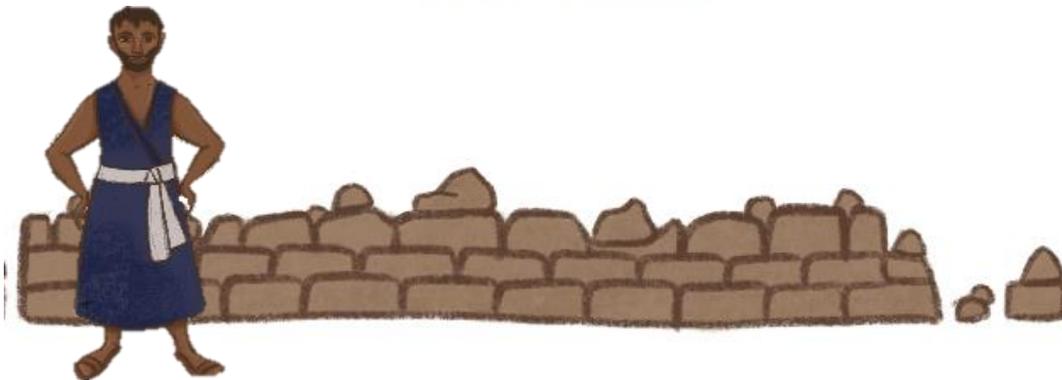


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# REBUILDING THE WALL



Acknowledgment to  
Annika Swansbury for  
illustrations



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### The wise and foolish builders

To be sung to the tune of 'Here we go gathering nuts in May', with actions. If you prefer, you can speak the story as a rhyme, or tell the story using the more traditional song (here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=126&v=exRlIFvHJFA&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=126&v=exRlIFvHJFA&feature=emb_logo)) or read it from a Children's Bible. It can be found in Matthew chapter 27:24-29. You can find a set of pictures here: <https://freebibleimages.org/search/?s=wise+and+foolish+builder>

This is a story that Jesus told, [action: opening a book]

Jesus told, Jesus told,

This is a story that Jesus told,

Of a wise and foolish builder. [action: 'wise' - thumbs up; 'foolish' - thumbs down]

This is how the wise builder built, [action: fists building on each other]

Wise builder built,

Wise builder built,

This is how the wise builder built,

On the rock that was solid and firm. [action: fists solid, together, on 'rock']

This is how the foolish man built, [action: fists building on each other]

Foolish man built,

Foolish man built,

This is how the foolish man built,

On the sand that was sloppy and wet. [action: fingers rippling along a line]



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When the wild winds blew and the rain came down, *[action: fingers 'rain']*

The rain came down,

The rain came down

When the wild winds blew and the rain came down

The house on the rock stood firm. *[action: fists solid, together]*

When the wild winds blew and the rain came down, *[action: fingers 'rain']*

The rain came down,

The rain came down,

When the wild winds blew and the rain came down,

The house on the sand fell FLAT! *[action: clap hands]*

Jesus said 'Build your life on the rock, *[action: fists solid, together, each time you say 'rock']*

Life on the rock,

Life on the rock,

Jesus said 'Build your life on the rock,

And do what God says is right.' *[action: thumbs up]*



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